GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4164
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
ILL-EFFECTS OF USE OF INSECTICIDES/PESTICIDES
Bhagora Shri Mahavir

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale use of insecticides/pesticides for increasing crop yields are causing deadly diseases like cancer as reported in the Hindi daily `Rashtriya Sahara` dated July 4, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR.ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (c): DDT & HCH are considered by WHO to be possibly carcinogenic to humans. Indian studies conducted on human blood samples collected from Lucknow, Delhi and Ahmedabad during the period 1980 to 1997 showed the levels of DDT and HCH in general population to range between 0.02 to 0.71 and 0.022 to 0.049 ppm respectively. The use of DDT, HCH, aldrin, chlordane, heptachlore and phosphomindon are banned for agriculture purposes. A Study by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi (issue dated June 15,2005) published the levels of various pesticides in blood samples of farmers from Punjab. The report mentions the presence of HCH (0.057 mg/L); heptacholor (0.0006 mg/L); aldrin (0.0062 mg/L); chlordane (0.0009 mg/L); DDT (0.065 mg/L); endosulfan (0.0046 mg/L); monocrotophos (0.066 mg/L) Chlorpyriphos (0.66 mg/L); and malathion (0.030 mg/L). The report states that the observed trends for DDT and HCH are comparatively lower than the earlier reports from India.